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09/710,955	11/14/2000	David J. Anderson	60027.0403US01/BS00143	6202

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EXAMINER	
PHAM, KHANH B	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2166	

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/710,955

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Khanh B. Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-11,28 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-11,28 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 29 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bouve et al. (US 5,682,525 A), hereinafter "**Bouve**", in view of Hancock et al. (US 6,202,023 B1), hereinafter "**Hancock**";

**As per claim 1**, Bouve teaches a method for searching a database in an information retrieval system according to user-identified geographical location information, comprising the steps of:

- "creating a database for storing at least geographical location information for each of a plurality of items of interest" at Col. 2 lines 14-17;
- "receiving geographical location information corresponding to a present location of a user's communications device" at Col. 10 lines 28-42;
- "receiving a search request from the user, and detecting whether the request is to search the database for items of interest located in a vicinity of the present geographical location of the user's communication device or of a different geographical location identified by the user" at Col. 10 lines 28-42 ;

- “if the request is for items of interest located in the vicinity of present geographical location, generating a search query for items of interest only within a certain geographical proximity of the present location at Col. 5 lines 14-21;
- “if the request is for items of interest in a vicinity of the different geographical location”
- “generating a search query for items of interest only within a certain geographical proximity of the different geographical location identified by the user” at Col. 5 lines 14-21;

Bouve does not explicitly teach: “different location identified by the user being a previous geographical location of the user’s communication device, wherein information regarding the previous geographical location is pre-configured by the user at a prior time” as claimed. However, Hancock teaches a similar method for querying a database and providing information services to users based on their geographical location (Col. 1 lines 15-20), wherein: “information regarding the different geographical location is pre-configured by the user at a prior time” at Col. 8 line 60 to Col. 9 line 10 and “different location identified by the user being a previous location of the user’s communication device” at Col. 27 lines 19-26 and Col. 28 lines 24-32 (Similar to Bouver, Hancock teaches a searching method based on current location or predefined locations, such as home or office, which are interpreted by the examiner as “previous location of the user’s communication device”). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bouve’s teaching based on Hancock’s teaching so that “information regarding the geographical location is pre-configured by

the user", in order to allow users to identify geographical location using easy to remember identifiers, or labels. For example, "Ms. Mary Smith may name her house MARY.SMITH.HOUSE. Thus, when Ms. Smith wants to direct someone using a locational service to her house, she identifies her location using MARY.SMITH.HOUSE, rather than a street address." (Hancock, Col. 8 line 60 to Col. 9 lines 3.) . This modification "are useful as it keeps user input to a minimum, increasing safety, reliability, and convenience" (Hancock, Col. 9 line 9-11).

**As per claim 3**, Bouve and Hancock teach the method of claim 1 as discussed above. Hancock also teaches: "the geographical location information of the user's mobile communication device is determined by triangular of control signal strength received at cell towers surrounding the user's communication device" at Col. 3 lines 55-61. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Bouve and Hancock's teachings so that the user's current geographic location could be automatically determined without requiring user to input his/her location information or using an external location determining device, and the accuracy of the location information would be improved.

**As per claim 4**, Bouve and Hancock teach the method for searching a database according to claim 1 as discussed above. Bouve also teaches: "the user's communication device comprise a mobile communications device, and the geographical

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location information of the user's mobile communication device is determined by a GPS receiver within the user's communication device" at Col. 10 line 61 to Col. 11 line 1.

**As per claim 5**, Bouve and Hancock teach the method for searching a database according to claim 1 as discussed above. Hancock also teaches: "the generating a search query comprises calculating a radial distance surrounding the specified graphical location and searching for items of interest at geographical locations within the calculated radial distance" at Col. 30 lines 10-21.

**As per claim 7**, Bouve and Hancock teach the method for searching a database according to claim 1 as discussed above. Hancock also teaches: "the user's communication device comprises a mobile communications device, and the different geographical location specified by the user is a location known to the system and is then personalized by the user for a future search as a personalized landmark for a radial search" at Col. 27 lines 39-49.

**As per claim 29**, Bouve and Hancock teach the method as in claim 1 discussed above. Hancock also teaches: "wherein the geographical proximity is a radial distance relative to the geographical location identified by the user" at Col. 27 lines 39-49.

3. **Claims 8-11 and 28 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Bouve and Hancock**, as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 7 above, and further in view of Rennard et al. (US 6,615,131 B1), hereinafter "**Rennard**".

**As per claim 28**, Bouve and Hancock teaches the method as in claim 1 discussed above. Bouve and Hancock does not explicitly teach: "detecting comprises orally creating a specified name using a mobile communications device and associating the specified name with the previous geographical location while the user is in the previous geographical location" as claimed. However, Rennard teaches a similar method for querying a database and providing information services to users based on their geographical location (Col. 2 lines 40-60), wherein: "information regarding the different geographical location is pre-configured by the user at prior time, by orally creating a specified name using the mobile communication device and associating the specified name with the different geographical location while the user is in the different geographical location" at Col. 21 line 45 to Col. 22 line 9 and Col. 13 line 62 to Col. 14 line 13. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bouve and Hancock's teachings based on Rennard's teaching in order provide a safe environment for inputting data and to reduce the number of input by users while using the system. As noted by Rennard, "it is desirable to provide an enhanced operating environment, in which the user is required to supply only reduced number of inputs, while using the navigation system. Thus, where a user is driving, for example, an enhanced operation environment provides

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important navigational output with minimal user inputs. It is thus desirable that allows a user to input complex information through alternative devices ahead of time” and “allow the user to input information by means of voice entries” (Rennard, Col. 11 lines 5-17).

**As per claim 8**, Bouve, Rennard and Hancock teach the method for searching a database according to claim 28 as discussed above. Rennard also teaches the steps of:

- “receiving a name specified by the user for the previous geographical location; storing the specified name and corresponding geographical location information as an entry in a locations table” at Col. 21 line 40 to Col 22 line 8;
- “upon receiving a request to search for items of interest in the vicinity of a geographical location specified by name, (i) searching the locations table for the specified name, and (ii) providing the geographical location information corresponding to the specified name in a search query” at Col. 21 line 40 to Col 22 line 8 .

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bouve and Hancock’s teachings based on Rennard ’s teaching in order provide a safe environment for inputting data and to reduce the number of input by users while using the system. As noted by Rennard, “it is desirable to provide an enhanced operating environment, in which the user is required to supply only reduced number of inputs, while using the navigation system. Thus, where a user is driving, for example, an enhanced operation environment provides important



navigational output with minimal user inputs. It is thus desirable that allows a user to input complex information through alternative devices ahead of time” and “allow the user to input information by means of voice entries” (Rennard, Col. 11 lines 5-17).

**As per claim 9**, Bouve, Rennard, and Hancock teach the method for searching a database according to claim 8 as discussed above. Rennard also teaches: “digitally encoding an audio speech signal of the specified name, wherein the digitally encoded signal identifies a specific location and is stored in the locations table” at Col. 21 line 40 to Col 22 line 8.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bouve and Hancock’s teachings based on Rennard ’s teaching in order provide a safe environment for inputting data and to reduce the number of input by users while using the system. As noted by Rennard, “it is desirable to provide an enhanced operating environment, in which the user is required to supply only reduced number of inputs, while using the navigation system. Thus, where a user is driving, for example, an enhanced operation environment provides important navigational output with minimal user inputs. It is thus desirable that allows a user to input complex information through alternative devices ahead of time” and “allow the user to input information by means of voice entries” (Rennard, Col. 11 lines 5-17).

**As per claim 10**, Bouve, Rennard and Hancock teach the method for searching a database according to claim 8 as discussed above. Rennard also teaches: “the user pre-configures the locations table with geographical locations at which the user intends

to search” at Col. 21 line 40 to Col 22 line 8. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bouve and Hancock’s teachings based on Rennard ’s teaching in order provide a safe environment for inputting data and to reduce the number of input by users while using the system. As noted by Rennard, “it is desirable to provide an enhanced operating environment, in which the user is required to supply only reduced number of inputs, while using the navigation system. Thus, where a user is driving, for example, an enhanced operation environment provides important navigational output with minimal user inputs. It is thus desirable that allows a user to input complex information through alternative devices ahead of time” and “allow the user to input information by means of voice entries” (Rennard, Col. 11 lines 5-17).

**As per claim 11**, Bouve, Rennard and Hancock teach the method for searching a database according to claim 8 as discussed above. Rennard also teaches the steps of:

- “requesting a user identification before storing a specified name and corresponding location information in the locations table” at Col. 11 lines 55-67;
- “requesting a user identification before searching the locations table, wherein the specified names and corresponding locations are stored according to the user identification” at Col. 11 lines 55-67 and Col. 21 line 40 to Col 22 line 8.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bouve and Hancock’s teachings based on Rennard ’s teaching in order provide a safe environment for inputting data and to reduce the number of input by users while using the system. As noted by Rennard, “it is desirable

to provide an enhanced operating environment, in which the user is required to supply only reduced number of inputs, while using the navigation system. Thus, where a user is driving, for example, an enhanced operation environment provides important navigational output with minimal user inputs. It is thus desirable that allows a user to input complex information through alternative devices ahead of time” and “allow the user to input information by means of voice entries” (Rennard, Col. 11 lines 5-17).

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed April 26, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The examiner respectfully traverses applicant's arguments.

Applicants argued that Hancock's predefined locations such as home or office are not the same as “a different geographic location identified by the user and being a previous location of the user's mobile communication device”, the examiner respectfully disagrees. As seen if Applicant's disclosure, Figs. 5 and 10, in addition to present location, users are allowed to search around different geographical locations such as Home, Office , School. Therefore, Hancock' predefined location such as Home or Office is the same as “previous location of the user's mobile communication device” (unless the user has never been in his/her home or office before).

In light of the arguments above, the 103 rejections are hereby sustained.

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh B. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-4116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm.

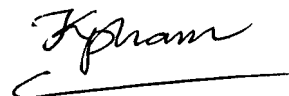
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Khanh B. Pham  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2166

July 10, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Pham', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.